

REMARKS

The Examiner indicated that the claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Lindermann, et al.* (6,027,087; '087 patent hereinafter). However, the Examiner indicated that claims 3, 4, 10 and 11 are objected to as being depending upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if written in independent form including all fo the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

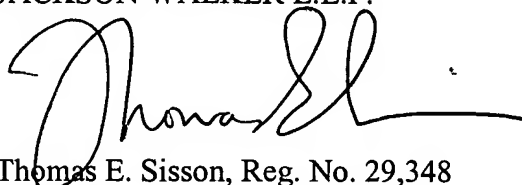
Claims 5-7 and 12-14 would be allowable is rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In order to overcome the rejection, the Applicant amended the claims to introduce the allowable subject matter in claim 3 into claim 1 to make the amended claim 1 allowable over the cited prior art in that an allowable subject is added. Claims 3, 4, 7 ,10 and 11 are canceled without prejudice and disclaimer.

The Applicant asks the Examiner to reconsider the amended claims and issue a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

JACKSON WALKER L.L.P.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas E. Sisson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas E. Sisson, Reg. No. 29,348
112 E. Pecan Street, Suite 2100
San Antonio, Texas 78205
(210) 978-7700 (phone)
(210) 978-7790 (fax)
Attorneys for Applicant

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the date shown below with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage via First Class Mail (37 CFR 1.8(a)), in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Nancy Sertich
Nancy Sertich

Date: 3/31/05

Via Express Mail Label No. EV 675655618 US